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## House Approves Legislation To Enhance Dam Safety

**Washington, D.C. – The U.S. House of Representatives Wednesday night approved by a voice vote legislation to reauthorize the National Dam Safety Program and improve the safety and security of the nation’s approximately 80,000 dams.**

**The Dam Safety Act of 2006 (H.R. 4981), introduced in the House of Representatives by U.S. Rep. John R. “Randy” Kuhl Jr. (R-NY), reauthorizes the National Dam Safety Program for five years, through Fiscal Year 2011.**

“According to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ national inventory of dams, there are nearly 2,000 dams in New York State, of which 133 are in my Congressional district,” **Kuhl** said. “Of those 133 dams, 30 of them are considered to be high-hazard and 41 are significant hazard. That means if there’s a failure, there’s a high risk of death and destruction. I believe we must pass the legislation that is before us today as our first line of defense from dam failures.”

The National Dam Safety Program is administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The program provides assistance grants to state dam safety agencies to assist them in improving their regulatory programs, training, and research, and to create a National Inventory of Dams.

Of the approximately 80,000 dams in the United States, about 10,000 are considered to have high-hazard potential, meaning their failure could result in loss of life or severe property damage. Private individuals, corporations, and state and local governments own more than 95 percent of the dams in America, giving state dam safety officials a crucial role in preventing dam failures and mitigating the effects through the development of Emergency Action Plans. A primary function of the National Dam Safety Program is to increase the level of knowledge and preparedness to prevent and mitigate the effects of dam failures.

**For additional information, access the Transportation & Infrastructure Committee website at:  
[www.house.gov/transportation](http://www.house.gov/transportation)**

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